Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract for this application with the Abstract set forth below (additions underlined; deletions struck through):

In a hearing amplification device adapted to receive a sound signal, the hearing amplification device having at least one bandpass non-linearity (BPNL) channel configured to receive an input representative of said sound signal, the improvement comprising the channel being further configured with a memoryless nonlinear amplifier to provide (1) linear gain for an input representative of a portion of a subband of the sound signal having ~~a~~ an instantaneous sound level less than a compression threshold, (2) ~~rapid~~ instantaneous compressive gain for an input representative of a portion of a subband of the sound signal having ~~a~~ an instantaneous sound level greater than the compression threshold, wherein the ~~rapid~~ instantaneous compressive gain is less than the linear gain, and (3) adaptive control of the compression threshold. ~~Preferably the rapid compressive gain is instantaneous.~~ Adaptive compression threshold control may be achieved in response to a user input and/or to sound signal changes. By adaptively controlling the compression threshold, performance of the device can be optimized to match its environment.